

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 113099 TOSEC 050001
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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OVIP

SUBJECT: CABLE HIGHLIGHTS

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE CABLE HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY 3, 1978

1. THREE UNIFIL SOLDIERS DIE IN LEBANON. YASIR ARAFAT HAS DISCLAIMED PLO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAY 2 ATTACKS NEAR TYRE WHICH LEFT TWO FRENCH SOLDIERS DEAD, NINE WOUNDED, AND ONE MISSING. ONE SENEGALESE IS DEAD AND NINE OTHERS DETAINED IN A PLO HOSPITAL FOLLOWING A SEPARATE ENCOUNTER WITH PALESTINIANS. (JERUSALEM 1259, CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS)

2. IRAQ UNHAPPY ABOUT SOVIETS IN HORN. IRAQ IS GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA BUT PROBABLY WILL RESIST DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE AT THE UPCOMING NONALIGNED CONFERENCE. (BAGHDAD 931, CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS)

3. FILIPINO OPPOSITION LEADER MAY SEEK ASYLUM IN US. LABAN
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CANDIDATE CHARITO PLANAS, WHOSE ARREST HAS BEEN ORDERED BY THE MARCOS REGIME, IS CONTEMPLATING FILING A REQUEST IN A THIRD COUNTRY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE US. AN AMERICAN PRIEST RAISED THE ISSUE IN A MEETING TODAY WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE IN MANILA. (MANILA 7193, CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS)

4. SINO-VIETNAMESE FEUD CONTINUES. THE DETERIORATING SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONSHIP, EXACERBATED BY RECENT SRV MOVES AGAINST RESIDENT CHINESE, VIRTUALLY ELIMINATES THE POSSIBILITY OF CHINESE MEDIATION IN THE CAMBODIAN-SRV CONFLICT. IT MAY ALSO LEAD BOTH CHINA AND VIETNAM TO SEEK IMPROVED TIES WITH THE US. (HONG KONG 5574, CONFIDENTIAL)

5. SEYCHELLES: GOVERNMENT MOVES AGAINST OPPOSITION. IN RESPONSE TO AN ALLEGED COUP THREAT, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SEYCHELLES HAS CHARGED 21 CITIZENS WITH TREASON, AND ANNOUNCED THE IMPOSITION OF EMERGENCY SECURITY MEASURES. (VICTORIA 388, CONFIDENTIAL)

6. PAKISTAN: SOVIETS AT DOORSTEP. PAKISTANI FOREIGN ADVISOR AGHA SHAHI SAYS THAT WITH THE COUP IN KABUL, AFGHANISTAN HAS DISAPPEARED AS A BUFFER STATE, AND THE USSR IS NOW CONTIGUOUS TO PAKISTAN. HE VIEWS THE COUP AS ANOTHER SOVIET STEP TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE WORLD'S PETROLEUM LIFELINES, AND HE IS ALSO WORRIED ABOUT RESURRECTION OF THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE. (ISLAMABAD 4348, SECRET)

CHRISTOPHER

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